



## FAMILY DEVOTIONAL SAMPLES

### letter a

Taken from *My ABC Bible Verses: Hiding God's Word in Little Hearts* by Susan Hunt published by Crossway  
Gives you practical memory verses for each letter of the alphabet to spark life application spiritual conversations.

“**A** soft answer turns away wrath.” Proverbs 15:1

This Bible is not just a book that some people wrote. It is the Word of God. The Bible is a precious gift from God to His children. When we hide it in our hearts, it will help us keep from sinning against God. Proverbs 15:1 tells us that a soft answer turns away wrath. A soft answer is a kind and gentle answer. Wrath means anger. This verse from God's Word teaches us that when someone is mean or unkind to us, we should respond by giving a kind answer. A gentle answer will turn away, or stop, an argument.

Missy memorized Proverbs 15:1. Every day she prayed that God would help her to give soft answer is someone was unkind to her.

Missy and her friend Janet were playing with Missy's dolls. Janet said, "Let's put the dolls in the bathtub and give them a bath."

Missy said, "Oh no, Mom told me never to put these dolls in water."

Janet became angry. "Missy," she said, "I'm going home if you won't give the dolls a bath! I'm not going to be your friend anymore!"

Before Missy learned Proverbs 15:1, she would have said, "Well, you just go home. I don't want to be your friend either." But Missy remembered, "A soft answer turns away wrath." Then she said to Janet, "I'm sorry. I want you to be my friend, but I can't disobey my mom."

Janet was angrily stomping out the door, but when she heard Missy speak so sweetly, she turned around and smiled. "Oh Missy, I'm sorry. You're my best friend. It was wrong for me to ask you to disobey your mom." The Holy Spirit helped Missy remember and obey God's Word that was hidden in her heart. Missy obeyed God and gave a kind answer to her friend, and it stopped the argument.

Something even more wonderful happened. God was glorified when Missy obeyed His Word.

#### *Let's Talk*

When her friend was unkind, who helped Missy remember that "a soft answer turns away wrath"?

Who help Missy give a kind answer?

Hide Proverbs 15:1 in your heart.

Say it three times.

#### *Let's Pray*

Ask God to help you remember and obey this verse from His Word, even when someone is unkind to you.



## *the cost of following jesus*

Taken from *Step into the Bible: 100 Bible Stories for Family Devotions* by Ruth Graham published by Zondervan  
Short bible passages and then some short commentary stories to go with them. Some are just retellings of the bible story and others are additional stories to accompany the bible story.

### *Read Luke 9:51-56*

One day while Jesus and His disciples were walking together, they came close to a small town. Many people lived in this town. Jesus sent some of His disciples into town to ask if they would let Him stop there to rest and eat. But the people in the town were very unfriendly and unkind to Jesus. They told Him that He could not stay. Two of the disciples, James and John, got very mad at the people and wanted to punish them. They asked Jesus if they could bring down fire from heaven to burn up the houses and all the people.

Jesus was sad that the people in the town did not want Him to stop, but He was unhappy with James and John for wanting to do such a mean thing. Jesus told James and John, "The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

He did not punish the people who were so unfriendly and unkind, but went on to another town to rest and eat.

### *Questions*

What did the people say to Jesus' disciples?

How did James and John feel?

Was Jesus displeased that James and John wanted to do this?

What did Jesus say that he had come to this world for?

Instead of punishing the people, what did He do?

Do you sometimes like to get back at someone who's been mean to you, as James and John wanted to do?

### *Memory Verse*

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13



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Taken from *Making Time for God: Daily Devotions for Children and Families to Share* by Susan Garrett and Amy Plantinga Pauw  
published by Baker Books

A basic family devotion with a passage and some thoughts on the story.

***Read Acts 16:25-26, 29-34***

Have you ever gone to Sunday school at midnight? Have you ever had a feast at one o'clock in the morning? The jailer and his family did.

Paul and Silas had been whipped and thrown in prison for helping a slave woman. At midnight they were worshipping God when an earthquake freed them from prison. The jailer knew that only the power of God could have done this. He woke up his family. They listened as Paul and Silas told them about Jesus Christ, and then they were baptized. After that they invited Paul and Silas to eat with them. Sleep was less important than the joy of believing in Jesus Christ.

***Prayer***

God, the joy of believing in Jesus Christ isn't just for Sunday morning. Let it shake up our lives night and day! In Christ's name, Amen.



## how did god write the bible?

Taken from *Family Devotions for Children* by Kenneth N. Taylor, published by Tyndale Kids  
An introduction to basic theology that is pretty kids friendly.

Did God use a computer or a pencil or a pen to write the Bible? No, that was not the way. He told many different people to write parts of his letter. He told them what to say, and they wrote it down for us to read.

How did God tell the people what to write? Sometimes he sent them dreams. In their dreams God told them what he wanted his people to know and do. Then the writers wrote down what God told them. Sometimes God sent them visions. If they had a vision, that means they were sitting or standing somewhere and suddenly saw a picture in their mind. Then they wrote down what they saw. And sometimes God spoke with a voice just like you and I do when we talk to each other. Finally, all of the messages God gave to these people were put together in a book, the Bible.

What a wonderful book to have! How kind God was to write us this letter that tells u what he wants us to know and do.

Your pastor probably reads the Bible a lot, and that is one reason why he is such a good person. Yes, he can make mistakes. But when he reads the Bible, God helps him know what is right. God will help you, too, when you know what he wants. He tells you this in his letter to you, the Bible.

### *A Bible Verse to Read*

It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God. 2 Peter 1:21

### *Some Questions to Answer*

1. How did people who wrote the Bible know what God wanted them to write?
2. What is a vision?

### *Some Things to Pray About*

Thank God for his letter to us  
Thank God for your family.